Steps to Improve the Functioning of Army Administration

386. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL :

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that gross discontentment exists among various ranks of army personnel regarding their career prospects due to supersession of Army officers and for certain other reasons ;

(b) whether Government have at any time examined the various grievances of the Army personnel with regard to their service career by any independent authority ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the measures taken by Government to improve the situation ; and

(d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint any independent expert authority to go into the various aspect of deficiencies of management in the various wings of the Indian Army for the purposes of recommending an efficient structure of the officers cadres to remove the grievances of the Army Personnel ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government do not have any information to suggest that there is any discontentment among Army personnel regarding their career prospects.

(b) and (c) As model employers, Government periodically review the service conditions and career prospects of all their employees and make such improvements therein as are considered necessary. Cadre Reviews are a part of such exercises.

(d) In view of answer to (b) and (c), this does not arise.

Fire in Kirkee Ordnance Factory

387. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the fire in Kirkee Ordnance Factory, Pune on 8th April, 1992 ; if so, at what level ; and

(b) what are the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Enquiry has been conducted by a Board of Inquiry consisting of seven Senior Officers, headed by the Controller of Quality Assurance (Military Explosives).

(b) The findings of the Board of Inquiry along with the comments of Ordnance Factory Board, are under consideration of the Government.

Cost over run in the production of T-72 Tanks

388. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state what follow-up action has been taken by Government on the report of C & AG regarding cost over run in the production and induction of T-72 tanks, indigenously produced by Ordnance Factory ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : All efforts are being made to complete the Project within the sanctioned amount of investment, despite increase in costs of machines, both imported and indigenous, by way of intense review and study of processes and keeping requirements of plant and Machinery to the bare minimum.

IAF Plane crash in Arunachal Pradesh

389. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an IAF AN-32 plane crashed near Nayapin (Palin), Lower Subansiri

District of Arunachal Pradesh recently resulting in the death of all 8 persons on board ;

(b) whether any inquiry into the AN-32 IAF plane accident has been conducted by Government ; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what follow-up action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per findings of the Court of Inquiry, the accident was caused because the pilot entered a wrong, though identical, valley in the area due to an error of judgement. Adverse weather during the flight aggravated the situation. As a remedial measure, similar looking valleys in the area have been identified and information about these valleys made available to all pilots operating in Arunachal Pradesh, to prevent recurrence. Furthermore, the dropping zone/helipad marking agencies have been asked to ensure proper marking of dropping zones/helipads for facilitating effective identification.

Insufficient orders placed with Ordnance Factory, Jabalpur

390. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ordnance Factories in Jabalpur are facing acute prospects of recession, due to lack of orders ; and

(b) what are the details of the orders pending with each factory and for how long the same are sufficient to run the factories to capacity and what steps are being taken to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The work-load available in some areas of production in the Ordnance Factories at Jabalpur is not enough to ensure full capacity utilisation. This is on account of the fluctuations in the Services' requirements, based on the changes in the threat perception and availability of Resources.

(b) It is not in public interest to disclose the details regarding outstanding orders. Additional work-load necessary for fuller utilisation of the capacity is planned to be secured by diversifying the production into other areas including non-defence requirements.

Firing Across the LAC in Kashmir

391. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the line of actual control between India and Pakistan in Kashmir continues to be vulnerable with continuing influx of infiltrators with or without arms and training and frequent incidents of unprovoked firings by Pak forces, obviously to provide cover to infiltrators ;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of unprovoked firing across the Line of Actual Control during the past three months ; and

(c) the steps taken to effectively seal it against infiltrators ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) We are aware of continuing attempts by Pak trained militants to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LOC) and of incidents when Pak troops have provided covering fire to assist Pak trained militants in infiltration/exfiltration. Suitable measures are taken by our security forces to deal with the situation.

(b) There have been a number of incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops along the LOC during the last three months. It would not be desirable to disclose further details.

(c) Government take all necessary steps to ensure the inviolability of the LOC and our border.